



BURIEN'S SUPPLEMENTAL HUMAN SERVICES ALLOCATION

August 2015

What is the Supplemental Human Services Allocation?

The Supplemental Human Services Allocation was passed by the Burien City Council at the August 3 City Council meeting. The 2015-16 biennial budget set by the City Council included a \$55,000 increase in Human Services funding. Since the budget's passage in December, the City has worked with student researchers at the University of Washington's Evans School as well as with local human service providers to develop strategies to deploy the new funds. Based on their feedback, recommendations were made to the City Council this summer, resulting in approval of the following services:

1. Auburn Youth Resources:
 - a. **\$10,000** (on top of existing \$5,000) to provide more homeless youth street outreach within Burien city limits. More information about this program can be found at <http://youtu.be/RpKLda24HOE>.
 - b. **\$6,000** to hold 2-3 forums convening social service providers in Burien to increase coordination.
2. Direct Services:
 - a. **\$6,000** (on top of existing \$1,500) for Emergency Transportation Vouchers, Emergency Lodging Vouchers, and Emergency Assistance Vouchers. *The Emergency Assistance Voucher Program accounts for only a small portion of the \$6,000 increase.*
 - b. **\$3,000** for laundry services at a local Burien business.
 - c. Mobile Dental Van: **\$18,000** (on top of existing \$10,000) to increase the days that King County Public Health's dental van visits Burien from one day per month to two days per month.
 - d. Transform Burien: **\$5,000** to support this organization's food pantry and meal service program.
3. Staffing: **\$2,000** to help fund a subregional South King County Housing/Homeless Planner position in conjunction with about half a dozen other cities in the region.
4. **\$5,000** in reserve for other collaborative opportunities on a subregional level.

Why was Burien's Emergency Assistance Voucher Program's funding increased?

Along with programs like street outreach, transportation vouchers, emergency lodging vouchers, support for a local food pantry and meal service program, laundry services, support for regional mobile medical services, and other supports for individuals in need, the Emergency Assistance Voucher Program received an increase in funds with the recent supplemental allocation. The Emergency Assistance Voucher Program represents less than five percent of the allocation. To learn more about the supplemental allocation, please refer to the question above.

What is the purpose of Burien's Emergency Assistance Voucher Program?

Burien's Emergency Assistance Voucher Program is part of an overall City effort to address the needs of underserved communities in Burien. As part of the Human Services budget, Burien's Emergency Assistance Voucher Program offers select, community-based human service providers with a tool to provide immediate assistance in the form of a limited-use gift card to individuals with direct, apparent needs. The Program is not solely intended to address the root causes of homelessness. Instead, the City of Burien collaborates with community coalitions, King County, and other regional organizations to build long-term strategies to reduce homelessness on a region-wide basis.

Who distributes the Emergency Assistance Vouchers in Burien's Program?

Emergency Assistance Vouchers are distributed by the Community Services Officer (CSO) of the Burien Police Department. Additionally, Emergency Assistance Vouchers will soon be distributed by qualified human services providers. Emergency Assistance Vouchers are intended to address specific and immediate needs and are not available by request or at City Hall.

How are the Emergency Assistance Vouchers tracked in Burien's Program?

Each Emergency Assistance Voucher purchased is a limited-use gift card that has a serial number that is logged by the City. When the card is given out, the Community Service Officer (or qualified human service provider) must sign out the card, state the specific need, and have the recipient initial the form. We track the log to monitor use of the Program and look for trends.

What restrictions come with the Emergency Assistance Vouchers in Burien's Assistance Program?

Emergency Assistance Vouchers provided through Burien's Emergency Assistance Program are limited to non-alcohol and non-tobacco related purchases only. Safeway, for example, provides limited-use gift cards that block such purchases.

How much are the Emergency Assistance Vouchers in Burien's Program worth?

In general, the Emergency Assistance Vouchers deployed through Burien's Program are limited to a maximum of \$25.00.

How does Burien's Emergency Assistance Voucher Program differ from food stamps?

Burien's Emergency Assistance Voucher Program allows individuals to purchase toiletry needs in addition to food. For example, an individual may need bandages, feminine hygiene products, diapers for children, or other toiletry items that may not be covered by existing assistance programs.

Why does Burien's Emergency Assistance Voucher Program operate through Safeway?

Of the vendors currently used by the City to provide gift cards for Burien's Emergency Assistance Program, Safeway was the only one with the capacity to limit a gift card to non-alcohol and non-tobacco related purchases.

Who do I contact for more information?

Specific questions about the Emergency Assistance Voucher Program can be directed to Nhan Nguyen, City of Burien Management Analyst, at 206-439-3165.